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NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL BROADCAST JOURNALISM AWARD GOES TO UM PROFESSOR

MISSOULA—

University of Montana Professor William Knowles, the man known to thousands of students for his Introduction to Mass Media class, was recently honored with a national award for his contribution to broadcast journalism.

Knowles received the prestigious Edward L. Bliss Award for Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Education at the 2006 annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

The award is named for legendary CBS newsman Ed Bliss, a longtime writer and producer for Walter Cronkite.

Knowles has taught at UM since 1986. In addition to the introductory class, he teaches broadcast writing and reporting and produced and launched the University's award-winning Student Documentary Unit. His students have won nearly every award bestowed on college journalists, including Emmy Awards, Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Awards, and Associated Press and Montana Broadcasters Association honors.

"Professor Knowles has taught just about every broadcast journalism class in the radio-television department during his 20 years," said UM Associate Professor Ray Ekness, who

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chairs the department and nominated Knowles for the award.

“He and former radio-television department chair Joe Durso Jr. founded the Student Documentary Unit, which produces an hour-long television program each year,” Ekness said. “The programs have been seen throughout Montana and have won state, regional and national recognition for UM.”

Before coming to UM, Knowles worked in the profession for 22 years. He was a news producer and executive for ABC News in bureaus in Los Angeles and Atlanta and in Washington, D.C., where he covered a number of historic events during Watergate.

Knowles officially retired with professor emeritus rank in June but remains at UM this semester teaching Introduction to Mass Media and the always-popular Sports and the Media course. He plans to travel abroad in retirement to share his knowledge and love of broadcast journalism.

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